

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1887.

What Is It?

We hear a great deal about Civil Service Reform in these days. Men are continually praising it, condemning it, attacking it, and defending it, but no two agree as to what it is. In reading and listening to the wordy warfare over it, one gathers about the same amount and the same sort of information of its real nature, that he might obtain concerning the characteristics of the sea-serpent, by perusing the periodical wrangling over that mythical monster.

Is there anything in Civil Service Reform except the name? Is it any more real than the sea-serpent, is it a myth or is it a matter only for intellectual debate, like the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy? If it is a real thing, how comes it that neither its friends or its enemies can agree upon a description of it? What are its marks by which the "plain people," about whom Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Hill are now exercising themselves, can distinguish it? If it be the overshadowing issue of the day, as *Harper's Weekly* and the *Evening Post* would have us believe, would it not be well to distribute such accurate information regarding it, that those who practice it may be quickly and easily distinguished from those who do not? If the possession or the lack of the principles of Civil Service Reform decide which party is to control the finances and policy of the United States; if all the gigantic issues of the tariff, currency, foreign relations and domestic policy are of comparative insignificance, is it not alarming that these principles are as yet in such abstruse form that not even professors of the art are able to declare whether any given man does or does not possess them?

The "plain people" are slow to acquire the abstract principles of any science, but grasp with great readiness their outward manifestations, and through the phenomena they arrive at a comprehension of the principle involved. Messieurs professors of Civil Service Reform, if you cannot expound to us, in intelligible language, the theory, please give us a few experiments, so to speak, or an illustration or two.

For example, does the following undeniable state of facts constitute a specimen of "Reform" or a variety of that old fruit known as "Apples of Sodom"?

Governors of Territories—All were changed before January 1 and Democrats appointed.

Secretaries of Territories—Seventeen out of the eighteen have been changed.

Registers of land offices—Ninety-seven out of one hundred and four have been changed.

Receivers of public moneys—Ninety-seven out of one hundred and four have been changed.

Indian agents—Fifty-two of sixty-four have been changed.

Ninety per cent of the 377 officials in a single department (the Interior)—that is to say, 338—have been changed.

Further, in view of these facts can Mr. Cleveland be said to have kept his pledge regarding the Civil Service, and still further can any honest Civil Service Reformer uphold the men who made these changes, or vote for the party which demanded them? These questions being answered some people may have clearer ideas on the subject of Civil Service Reform.

The Public Schools.

The Bloomfield schools were well filled on Monday, the opening day. 800 scholars are now on the roll. The primary classes are filled to their fullest capacity.

Berkeley School which has constantly increased in numbers for the past six years, and for which increased accommodations have been furnished, is still pressed for room.

Brookside has about the same number of scholars as last year.

The system of ventilating adopted in the Central School building is considered superior to that of most public school buildings.

A sale took place at Leavitt's Auction Rooms on Tuesday afternoon in which Bloomfield people had a special interest. The library and manuscript collections of Gen. Joseph Bloomfield were put up at auction. Gen. Bloomfield, the man from which this town derives its name, was a Major General in the Revolutionary War, a Brigadier General during the War of 1812, and 12 years Governor of this State. At his death his library went to his grandson, Joseph Bloomfield Wetherill, an Episcopal clergyman. Among the many interesting things it contained was a manuscript journal of Governor Bloomfield recording his services during the Revolutionary War and War of 1812; a collection of rare New Jersey manuscripts; a copy of Smith's history of New Jersey, a rare book which now brings a high price.

Bloomfield is to add to its industries. A large factory for manufacturing indelible ink is being erected on Midland avenue.

A GREAT WHOLESALE ESTABLISHMENT.

Opening of Wilkinson, Gaddis & Co.'s New Building.

Thursday and Friday of last week were devoted by the above named firm to a grand opening of their new building on Broad and Fair streets. It must have eclipsed anything of the kind ever undertaken in New Jersey. Ten thousand invitations were sent out to the firms customers and friends throughout the State. On Thursday morning the invited guests began to arrive. Preparations were made to entertain them on the third floor of the building, which was given into the care of Messrs. S. and J. Davis for the two opening days, Thursday and Friday. The walls were elaborately decorated with flags, shields and streamers, and long tables were spread with snowy linen and covered with salads, sandwiches and delicacies that go to make up a perfect lunch. Salmon, pickled oysters, lobster and chicken in salads, and other cold viands were served to all who came, and ice cream and coffee followed. There was plenty of everything and it was served without stint and in the most appetizing manner possible. The several members of the firm and their salesmen were indefatigable in their attention to the guests, and everybody was made thoroughly at home, seated at the table, pressed to partake of the good things and then shown through the building. For two days thousands of guests were entertained and among them were many ladies. Hundreds of the customers from towns and villages from far and near responded to the invitation and partook of the firm's hospitality, while they admired the great building and felt a gratification in having helped to build up such a business. Among the guests were hundreds of Newark grocers and other tradesmen, and a number of New York merchants with whom the firm transacts business, as well as thousands of favored citizens who have no special claim upon this house. Expressions of surprise and admiration were made by everybody who inspected the interior of the building for the first time, and all agreed that there was nothing in the State to surpass it for solidity of construction and adaptability for the business to be carried on in it. The members of the firm were frequently complimented upon their good taste and judgment, and best wishes for continued success were expressed on all sides.

The wholesale business now conducted by Wilkinson, Gaddis & Co. was first opened in 1863, and has steadily grown from a small trade confined to the County of Essex, to a concern that now numbers upon its books as customers nearly every retail grocer in New Jersey, and not a few outside the State.

It has been the aim of this firm to prove to stockholders within their territory that it is not necessary or advisable to go to New York to buy goods, and that they have succeeded in proving this is shown by the fact that its business compares in magnitude with any in the country, and that its name is favorably known in every business centre in the country. Wilkinson, Gaddis & Co. aim to be first hands in every article they handle. They are among the largest buyers in their line in the country, which gives them all the advantages the average large dealer possesses, and in many instances they have formed such extensive direct associations with manufacturers and producers that they are enabled to sell the largest dealers with profit. Almost everything they handle is purchased in carloads, and often whole train-loads, and much of it is sold without being removed from the cars. This is especially the case with grain which forms an important part of the firm's business.

Some idea of the magnitude of Wilkinson, Gaddis & Co.'s business may be gathered from the fact that in Newark alone the firm has 115 men on the pay roll and in the outside industries operated by this house are fully as many more. A few of the senior clerks in the Newark house are interested in the company as stockholders, having been allowed to take up shares as a reward for long and faithful services. The business system of the firm is as perfect as that of the Post Office Department, and everything runs along as smoothly as a well-oiled clock. Every employee is spurred by the knowledge that his efforts are appreciated and his services valued and sure of reward.

In the firm's stable on Brunswick street are sixty-five horses used in the transaction of business in Newark.

The new building is one which affords every convenience for the transaction of a heavy business expeditiously. While Wilkinson, Gaddis & Co. have sought to make it as attractive as possible they have not sacrificed any point of convenience for the sake of ornamentation or beauty. Yet the external appearance of the building is one of exceeding architectural beauty of a massive type. The building is six stories high with a front of forty feet on Broad street and a depth of 120 feet on Fair street and a cellar extending to the curb on both streets. There is no other cellar like this in New Jersey. It is paved with blue stone flagging and lighted and ventilated by the iron and glass pavement and platforms of the doorsteps, the risers of the steps having sliding ports which may be opened at any time to admit air.

The first story of the facade of the building is formed of a series of massive arches of rough Oxford blue stone forming three doorways on Broad street and one on Fair street. The remainder of the Fair street side of the first story is built of Trenton brick with blue stone trimmings and has seven massive doors of polished oak set with beveled plate glass and trimmed with polished brass hardware. An awning of corrugated iron and glass extends over the whole length of the Fair street front and is supported by ornamental brackets fastened into the masonry.

Above the first story the building's construction of Trenton pressed brick, with trimmings of Portage blue stone, and terminating with a frieze of rubble, surmounted by a cornice of terra cotta and iron, above which are gilt network signs extending completely around the building. It is a grand monument of enterprise and industry, and a credit to the city as well to the firm. Handsome as the exterior is, it has more attraction for the practical business man in its interior fittings. From the cellar to the roof it is arranged not only with an eye to artistic effect, but with the main purpose of having it perfectly

adapted for the demands of a constantly increasing business, which is already the largest of its kind in the State. The cellar is devoted to butter, cheese and lard, and contains a refrigerator holding thirty tons of ice. Here are the toilet apartments also, and the boilers and engines for heating the building and for running the elevators, as well as a Hyatt filter for purifying the water used in the building. The ground floor is devoted to shipping purposes, and midway on the Fair street side is the shipping elevator of the office. On this floor are four elevators, two of which are huge affairs running to the upper loft and operated by steam, while the others are smaller and are run by hand. The ceiling of this floor is of asbestos and is fire proof. The floor beams are all open and are yellow pine, sheathed. Heavy iron girders support the floor above, and the whole is upheld by massive iron columns painted an olive green at the base and bronze above.

A broad winding stairway in quartered oak leads from the first floor to the offices in the front of the second floor. This floor is divided into several departments. In the southwest corner is the private office of President Elias A. Wilkinson, which is elaborate and tastefully fitted up. Fully one-third of the floor in this story is given up to offices and counting-room purposes, and occupied by a score of handsome large desks and as many smaller ones. Back of the office is the sample department, and divided from this by a screen of artistic brass lattice-work is the cigar department. In the rear of this is a package room. In every part of the second floor the fittings are solid and tasteful, and the samples are ranged in a most attractive manner. The four stories above are store-rooms filled with unbroken packages of groceries of every description. Every floor is connected with the counting-room and shipping department by speaking-tubes call bells and pneumatic tubes for conveying orders and memoranda. Two big elevators are fitted with the best safety devices, and will run at the rate of 150 feet per minute. Their maximum capacity is four tons each. The building is fire proof and is constructed to stand a pressure of 400 pounds per square inch on every floor. In the second floor is a huge brick vault containing a fire and burglar proof safe.



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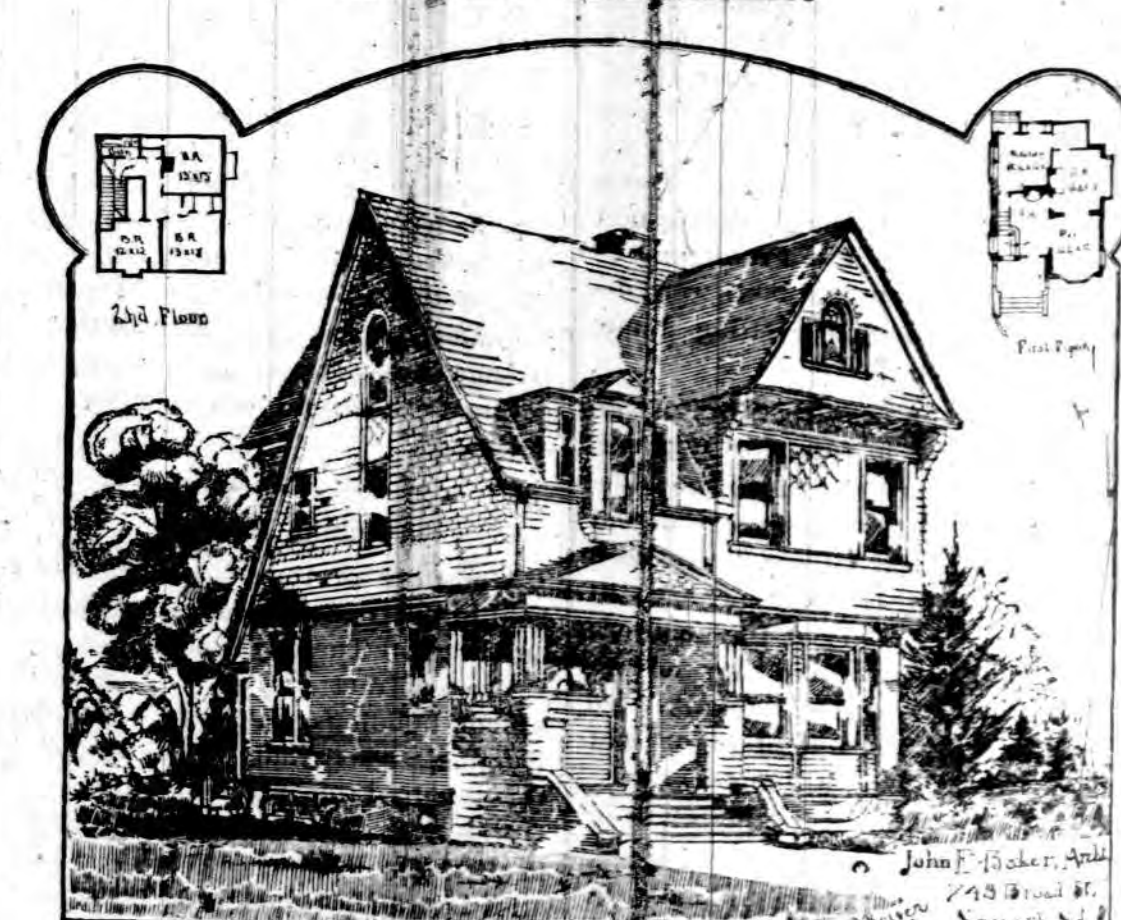


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